Docket No.: 2091-0232P

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) A printing system as defined in Claim 1, A printing system comprising:

at least one customer service system for receiving, via a network, order information representing the content of an order of a customer for a print;

a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting the print based on the order information transferred via the network from the customer service system that has received the order information; and

an order assigning system existing between the at-least-one customer service system and the laboratory servers, for receiving the order information from the customer service system, for selecting one of the laboratory servers to output the print based on predetermined information, and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server;

wherein the predetermined information is information specifying one of the laboratory servers described in the order information by the customer.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Currently amended) A printing system as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 6, A printing system comprising:

at least one customer service system for receiving, via a network, order information representing the content of an order of a customer for a print;

a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting the print based on the order information transferred via the network from the customer service system that has received the order information; and

an order assigning system existing between the at-least-one customer service system and the laboratory servers, for receiving the order information from the customer service system, for selecting one of the laboratory servers to output the print based on predetermined information,

and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server;

the order assigning system transferring information related to the selected laboratory to the customer service system that received the order information, the customer service system generating selection information for determining a desired one of the laboratory servers based on the information and transferring the selection information to the order assigning system, and the order assigning system using the selection information as the predetermined information.

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A printing system as defined in Claim 8, A printing system comprising:

a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting a print; and

at least one order receiving assigning system comprising a customer service system for receiving order information including customer information from a customer via the network, and an assigning system for selecting, based on predetermined information, one of the laboratory servers to receive the order information, and for transferring the order information to the selected laboratory server;

wherein the predetermined information is information identifying one of the laboratory servers specified by the customer in the order information.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A printing system as defined in any one of Claims 8 to 13, A printing system comprising:

a plurality of laboratory servers for outputting a print; and

at least one order receiving assigning system comprising a customer service system for receiving order information including customer information from a customer via the network, and an assigning system for selecting, based on predetermined information, one of the laboratory servers to receive the order information, and for transferring the order information to the

Docket No.: 2091-0232P

After Final Office Action of July 3, 2006

selected laboratory server;

wherein the order receiving assigning system or systems generate selection information by determining a desired one of the laboratory servers based on information related to the selected laboratory server, and use the selection information as the predetermined information.

Claims 15-21 (Cancelled).

Docket No.: 2091-0232P